

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MILAN 00308 01 OF 02 021025Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 /074 W
-----087054 021104Z /10
R 011500Z MAR 78
FM AMCONSUL MILAN
TO AMEMBASSY ROME
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5869

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MILAN 0308

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT PFOR PINR ECON IT
SUBJECT: CABLE FROM PAVIA - FEB 23-24, 1978

REF: 76 MILAN 2236

1. SUMMARY: MARCH 11 PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS IN PAVIA IMPORTANT
BUT EVEN AT SUCH CLOSE RANGE, OUTCOME IS HARD TO PREDICT.
END SUMMARY.

2. ALTHOUGH PAVIA CITY IS DOMINATED BY ITS ANCIENT UNIVERSITY,
PROVINCE HAS VARIED ECONOMY THAT FEATURES ONE VERY LARGE MANUFAC-
TURER (NECCHI SEWING MACHINE), THOUSANDS OF SMALL ONES (MOSTLY
IN SHOEMAKING), AND SIZEABLE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR INCLUDING WINE.
BOTH CITY AND PROVINCE ARE RUN, SINCE 1972, BY LEFTIST EXECUTIVES
(GIUNTAS). WHETHER THEY WILL GO OR STAY DEPENDS ON RESULTS OF
ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 11 BUT WHICH COULD BE POSTPONED IF
NEW NATIONAL GOVERNMENT NOT IN PLACE BY THEN.

3. DPO, EXTENDING LENGTH PREVIOUS VISIT, SPENT 2 DAYS IN PAVIA AS
ELECTIONS APPROACH, SPEAKING WITH BISHOP, PREFECT, MAYOR, UNIVERSITY
RECTOR, NEWSPAPER EDITOR, PROVINCIAL SECRETARIES OF THREE
UNIONS AND THREE MAJOR PARTIES, AND SECRETARIES OF CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRIALISTS' UNION.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MILAN 00308 01 OF 02 021025Z

4. PAVIA'S ECONOMY IS NOT IN CRISIS BUT COULD BE BETTER. ON
ONE HAND, LARGE NECCHI PLANT (OVER 5,000 EMPLOYEES), GIVEN NEW
MANAGEMENT TWO YEARS AGO, IS BACK ON FEET WITH GOOD PROSPECTS
AHEAD. SHOE EXPORTS ARE GOOD, AS ARE WINE SALES. UNEMPLOYMENT
AT 8,000 JOBLESS OUT OF 206,000 EMPLOYABLES, IS MODEST 3.9 PERCENT.

5. ON THE OTHER HAND, 1977 WAS GENERALLY POORER YEAR THAN PREVIOUS. DEMAND FELL AND BAD WEATHER REDUCED HARVESTS. UNEMPLOYMENT ROSE, IN GREAT PART DUE TO REORGANIZATION OF NECCHI (WHERE SOME 900 JOBS WERE ABOLISHED) AND CLOSURE OF KURTING, GERMAN-OWNED ELECTRONICS MANUFACTURER WHICH UNIONS HAD PREVENTED FROM LAYING PEOPLE OFF. IN END, COMPANY FOLDED AND ALL 900 WERE LOST. MOREOVER, JOB SUPPLEMENT FUND (CASSA INTEGRAZIONE) HOURS TOOK STEEP RISE LATE LAST YEAR, THOUGH OVERALL TOTAL STILL NOT ALARMING. UNEMPLOYMENT, ACCORDING TO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SECRETARY, EXISTS STRICTLY AMONG UNSKILLED WORKERS AND DUE MOSTLY TO ITALIAN PREDILECTION FOR WHITE COLLAR JOBS, EVEN WHEN SUCH JOBS NOT AVAILABLE AND WOULD PAY LESS MONEY IF THEY WERE.

6. LATTER PROBLEM IS ONE THAT PAVIA UNIONS AND INDUSTRIALISTS ASSOCIATION HAVE JUST GOTTEN TOGETHER TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT. WITH FINANCING OF LOMBARDY REGION AND EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND THEY HAVE SET UP PROGRAM TO TRAIN SKILLED WORKERS THAT STARTS FROM PROJECTED NEEDS OF LOCAL COMPANIES. TRAINEES AGREE TO SPEND SIX MONTHS IN FACTORY LEARNING AT ZERO SALARY AND ANOTHER SIX AT PARTIAL PAY. THOSE WHO COMPLETE TRAINING SUCCESSFULLY ARE GUARANTEED JOBS.

7. THAT IS EVIDENCE OF NEW ATTITUDE ON PART OF UNIONS THAT, ACCORDING TO INDUSTRIALISTS' ASSOCIATION SECRETARY, COULD HAVE OBVIATED CLOSURE OF KURTING PLANT HAD UNIONS FELT THIS WAY TWO YEARS AGO. NEVERTHELESS, HE AND OTHER BUSINESSMEN WERE WARY. CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MILAN 00308 01 OF 02 021025Z

MAIN REASON FOR CONCERN WAS ATTITUDE OF CISL, TAKEN OVER IN PAVIA BY EXTREMISTS WHO HAD DIVORCED COMPLETELY FROM DC AND CHURCH. DESPITE CGIL PREPONDERANCE (50,000 MEMBERS VERSUS 15,000 FOR CISL AND 7,000 FOR UIL), CGIL OFFICIALS HAVE HAD TIME PREACHING MODERATION WHILE IN CONSTANT DANGER OF BEING UNDERCUT ON LEFT BY CISL COUNTERPARTS. CGIL SECRETARY, - YOUNG, COMPETENT SOCIALIST - WAS ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT FUTURE, HOWEVER, WHICH HE SAW AS PERIOD OF INCREASINGLY FRUITFUL COOPERATION BETWEEN LABOR AND MANAGEMENT ON PREVIOUSLY INTRACTABLE PROBLEMS LIKE LABOR MOBILITY.

8. POLITICAL SITUATION AS ELECTIONS APPROACHED YIELDED NO CERTAINTY ON IDENTITY OF WINNERS - THOUGH EVENTUAL LOSERS NOT HARD TO SPOT. PAVIA ELECTIONS ARE OUT OF PHASE WITH THOSE OF MOST COUNTRY BECAUSE PAVIA'S 1970 ELECTION PRODUCED RESULTS FROM WHICH MAJORITY COULD NOT BE FORMED AND THEY WERE RE-HELD IN 1972. PRESENT CITY AND PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATIONS ARE LEFTIST, WITH PCI BY FAR PREDOMINANT PARTNER (35PC IN 1972, 41PC IN 1976 NATIONAL ELECTIONS).

9. BUT IT IS PSI MAYOR CORNELIO VELTRI - RESTLESS YOUNG SELF-PROMOTER FROM CALABRIA WHO WENT TO UNIVERSITY IN

PAVIA AND STAYED ON - WHO SETS TONE FOR ADMINISTRATION
THAT HE CALL OPEN AND SOCIALLY PROGRESSIVE BUT REMINDS
BISHOP OF "LITTLE RUSSIA", AND WHICH HAS BEEN UNFRIENDLY
TO USIS EFFORTS IN PAVIA. VELTRI KEEPS HIMSELF IN PUBLIC
EYE WITH WEEKLY CALL-IN RADIO SHOW, FREQUENT PUB CRAWLS
80 OVER 40 SO FAR) TO ANSWER QUESTIONS OF YOUNG, AND
GIMMICKS LIKE PHOTO OF HIMSELF GAMELY SHOVELING SNOW IN
FRONT OF CITY HALL.
(CATHOLICS WEEKLY SHOWED WHAT IT THOUGHT OF LAST STUNT BY
JUXTAPOSING AGAINST IT PHOTO OF BARE-CHESTED MUSSOLINI
HEAVING SACK OF GRAIN.) MOST COMMON COMPLAINT IS THAT CITY
IS SQUANDERING PUBLIC MONEY ON FREE CONCERTS AND OTHER SELF-
ADVERTISING SCHEMES WHEN IT SHOULD BE KEEPING STREETS FREE
OF SNOW, SERVICE WHICH - VELTRIS OWN MEAGER CONTRIBUTION
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 MILAN 00308 01 OF 02 021025Z

ASIDE- IT ALLEGEDLY IS NOT PERFORMING. ANOTHER LARGE GRIPE
CONCERNS NINE MONTHS OLD EXPERIMENT WHICH TURNS ALL OF
DOWNTOWN INTO SHOPPING MALL, BANNING CARS FROM LARGE PART OF
CITY. FINALLY, CHARGES OF FAVORITISM IN HANDLING OUT JOBS
AS WELL AS VOTE-BUYING ARE FAIRLY COMMON. VELTRI AND PSI
SECY RENATO GROSSI REPLY THT THEY HAVE GREATLY UPGRADED
HOSPITAL, SCHOOL AND OTHER MUNICIPAL SERVICES AND THAT, EVEN
IF ISOLATED MEASURE LIKE BANNING CARS FROM CITY CENTER IS
MOMENTARILY UNPOPULAR, THEY WILL NOT BE DETERRED FROM TAKING IT.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MILAN 00308 02 OF 02 021102Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 TRSE-00 /074 W
-----087309 021104Z /11

R 011500Z MAR 78
FM AMCONSUL MILAN
TO AMEMBASSY ROME
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5870

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 2 OF 2 MILAN 0308

10. MEANWHILE, RELATIONS BETWEEN PARTIES OF MAJORITY NOT GOOD. PSI MAYOR REPROVED COMMUNISTS FOR HAVING DAMAGED SOCIALISTS IN MISTAKEN IDEA THAT PCI FUTURE LAY WITH DC, IDEA HE THOUGHT PCI WAS TODAY RECONSIDERING IN FACE OF UNEXPECTEDLY STRONG OPPOSITION TO HISTORIC COMPROMISE WITHIN DC. PCI, FOR ITS PART, SAID TO BE FED UP WITH MAYOR VELTRI BOTH BECAUSE HE UPSTAGES COMMUNISTS (BISHOP) AND BECAUSE HIS ILL-CONCEALED HOSTILITY TO CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS HAS GOTTEN IN WAY OF GOOD DC-PCI RELATIONS (UIL SECRETARY). PCI, SAID LATTER, HAD ALREADY SAID OPENLY THAT VELTRI WOULD GO AFTER ELECTIONS AND THAT HIS REPLACEMENT WOULD BE COMMUNIST, CHANGE FROM PCI'S PREVIOUS GENEROSITY IN GIVING TOP JOB IN BOTH CITY AND PROVINCE TO SOCIALISTS. PCI SECRETARY COMMENTED THAT CONSTANT PSI ATTEMPTS TO SHOW UP ON COMMUNIST LEFT WERE POOR POLITICS FOR PARTY WITH MODERATE ELECTORATE LIKE SOCIALISTS.

11. IF PCI RETAINS OVER 40 PERCENT OF VOTE IT GOT IN LAST ELECTIONS, IT CAN OF COURSE DO ANYTHING IT WANTS. AND BOYISH, 33-YEAR OLD PCI SECY GIORGIO MAINI - FORMER WORKER WHO SAYS HE IS SELF-TAUGHT - PAINTED PCI GOALS AS AMAZINGLY CONSERVATIVE. PARTY WANTED TO JOIN WITH OTHERS IN ISOLATING EXTREMISTS AT UNIVERSITY SO STUDENTS COULD STUDY, TONE DOWN UNION DEMANDS IN LINE WITH LAMA MODERATION, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MILAN 00308 02 OF 02 021102Z

AND HELP BUSINESS BECOME PROFITABLE AGAIN. BUT WOULDN'T THIS RUSH TOWARD THE CENTER ALIENATE GOOD DEAL OF PCI RANK AND FILE? NOT A BIT OF IT. PCI ELECTORATE WAS BASICALLY CONSERVATIVE, EVEN WORKERS. SURE, PCI WOULD LOSE A FEW STRAGGLERS AT EXTREME LEFT BUT NOT MANY. WHERE COULD THEY GO WHEN ONLY PCI AMONG LEFTIST PARTIES OFFERED STABLE, CREDIBLE CHOICE? ANYWAY, PCI WOULD MORE THAN MAKE UP FOR LOSSES ON LEFT WITH GAINS FROM ELSEWHERE. AS FOR UPCOMING ELECTIONS, MAINI THOUGHT BOTH PCI AND DC WOULD GAIN SOMEWHAT BUT NOTHING DRAMATIC.

12. DC WAS PARTY OVER WHICH EVEN MOST STALWART PAVIA CONSERVATIVES SHOOK HEADS (ONLY PCI SECRETARY HAD KIND WORD FOR IT.) AND VISIT TO DC PROVINCIAL SECY SHOWED WHY. LUIGI COLOMBO IS PIN-STRIPED, FLORID-FACED SPORTS PROMOTER WHO BEARS NUMBING RESEMBLAMCE TO CLASSIC DC POLITICIAN. HE WAS ABSOLUTELY AGAINST COLLABORATION WITH COMMUNISTS THOUGH HE NOTED UNHAPPILY THAT SMALL MINORITY IN PAVIA DC (LEFTIST BASE FACTION) WAS FOR IT. HE CALLED LEFTIST CISL SECY DISASTER, AGREEING WITH PRACTICALLLY EVERYONE ELSE, AND CALIMED LOCAL DC WAS IN GOOD SHAPE FOR ELECTIONS.

13. BISHOP ANTONIO GIUSEPPE AGIONI WAS AMONG THOSE WHO FELT PAVIA DC LEADERSHIP COULD STAND IMPROVEMENT AND HE WA URGING LAY PEOPLE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT. THEY HAD FORMED LAY

COORDINATING-COMMITTEE WHICH HAD ENJOYED GREAT SUCCESS IN LAST DECEMBER'S SCHOOL ELECTIONS AND WERE AGAIN AT WORK FOR ELECTIONS NEXT MONTH. AND THEY WERE EXACTING PRICE FOR THEIR SUPPORT, TWO SEATS ON EACH ELECTORAL LIST. OTHERWISE, SAID BISHOP, HOW WILL ANY YOUNGER PEOPLE EVER GET CHANCE? THAT HAD CAUSED FRICTION AT FIRST WITH LOCAL DC LEADERS, BUT NOW THEY UNDERSTOOD THAT CATHOLICS WERE TRYING TO HELP THEM AND THINGS WERE BETTER. BISHOP ALSO TOOK FATHERLY ATTITUDE TOWARD COMUNIONE E LIBERAZIONE, WITH GOOD NUCLEUS AT UNIVERSITY. AND HE DESCRIBED TAUNTS FROM
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MILAN 00308 02 OF 02 021102Z

LEFTIST YOUTHS OUTSIDE HIS ANCIENT PALACE. THEY WERE REACTING TO NEW CATHOLIC MILITANCY AND WERE INDICATION, IN HIS OPINION, THAT CATHOLICS WERE GETTING THROUGH TO OPPOSITION.

14. UNIVERSITY, IRONCALLY, WA OASIS OF RELATIVE SERIOUSNESS IN MIDST OF PAVIA'S POLITICAL FRICTION. DESPITE FACT THAT ITS 16,000 STUDENTS - MOST IN MEDICINE AND SCIENCES - ARE LARGE SLICE OF CITY'S 80,000 POPULATION, MAYOR BOASTED THAT NOT ONE WINDOW HAD BEEN BROKEN AND ALL AGREED THAT THINGS COULD BE MUCH WORSE. RECTOR ALBERTO GIGLI BERZOLARI, SOFT-SPOKEN, APOLITICAL PROFESSOR OF PHYSICS, DID HAVE ONE CLASSROOM PERMANENTLY OCCUPIED BUT WASN'T COMPLAINING. NONETHELESS, HE WAS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT FUTURE OF ITALIAN EDUCATION. HE DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT STUDENTS TODAY WANTED AND HE HAD PRACTICALLY DESPAIRED OF REFORM FROM GOVERNMENT. FRENCH AUTHORITIES HAD MADE BASIC CHANGES IMMEDIATELY AFTER BEING HIT BY MAY 1968 STUDENT RIOTS. ITALIANS, IN GRIP OF WORSE DETERIORATION, HAD YET TO MOVE. COUNTRY'S POLITICAL PARALYSIS, SYMBOLIZED BY AGEING LEADERSHIP WAS WHAT TURNED OFF YOUNG PEOPLE. IT ALSO ATTRACTED THEM TO US, WHERE RAPID CHANGE WAS INSTITUTIONALIZED AND THERE WAS ALWAYS HOPE FOR FUTURE.

15. IN SUM, PAVIA ON ELECTION EVE PRESENTS POLITICALLY CHARGED ATMOSPHERE THROUGH WHICH ELECTION RESULTS HARD TO DIVINE. SIX YEARS OF SELF-PROMOTION BY ACTIVE PSI MAYOR PLUS ALREADY STRONG PCI PRESENCE MAY WELL INSURE STRONG SHOWING FOR LEFT. ON OTHER HAND, BISHOP, NEWSPAPER EDITOR AND OTHERS MAY BE RIGHT IN SAYING THAT ELECTORATE IS TIRED OF PRESENT ADMINISTRATION. NEW ACTIVISM AMONG CATHOLICS IS ANOTHER FACTOR IN DC FAVOR. WE TEND TO AGREE WITH PCI SECRETARY THAT BOTH HIS PARTY AND DC WILL MAKE MODEST GAINS WHILE PSI WILL DROP BACK. THAT WOULD PROBABLY ALLOW LEFTIST GIUNTA TO CONTINUE, WITH COMMUNIST THIS TIME IN CITY HALL.FIN
A

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LOCAL ELECTIONS, ELECTION FORECASTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MILAN00308
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780095-0694
Format: TEL
From: MILAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197803120/aaaadxtq.tel
Line Count: 270
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: acc4d1ba-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MILAN 2236
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3157853
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CABLE FROM PAVIA - FEB 23-24, 1978
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PINR, ECON, IT
To: ROME
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/acc4d1ba-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014